

**REMARKS**

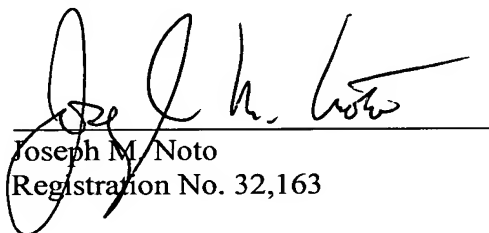
Entry of the foregoing in advance of the initial Office Action is respectfully requested.

By the present preliminary amendment, claims 1-17 and 21-23 have been amended and claims 18-20 have been canceled to conform the foreign language originating text to U.S. practice.

Early allowance of the pending claims is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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